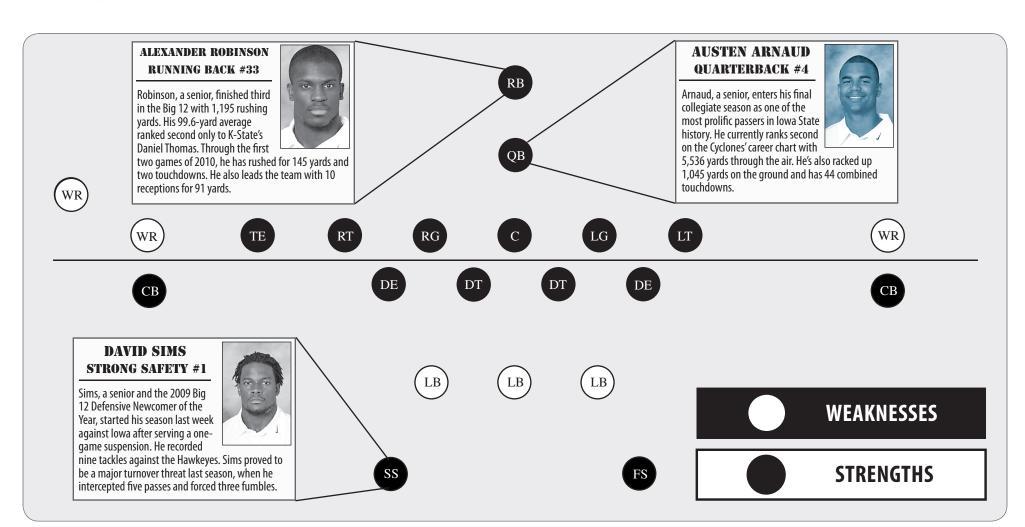
# JAMEDAY Guide



# Scouting Report





# Iowa State Cyclones (1-1 Overall, 0-0 Big 12 Conference)

### **STRENGTHS**

Quarterback: There is zero uncertainty surrounding the quarterback position as the Cyclones prepare for their Big 12 opener. That job goes to senior Austen Arnaud. The native of Ames, Iowa, has started since his sophomore campaign, and has had K-State's number every season. In his career against the Wildcats, Arnaud has completed 49 of 142 passes for 734 yards and five touchdowns. He's also established himself as a credible threat on the ground, as he's rushed for 1,045 yards in his career. Look for the Wildcats' defense to keep an extra close watch on Arnaud to prevent him from continuing his trend against K-State.

Running back: The Cyclones also return one of the Big 12 Conference's top ball carriers from a year ago in senior running back Alexander Robinson. The Minneapolis native racked up 1,195 rushing yards in 2009, which ranked third in the conference. He posted six games of 100 or more yards and his average of 99.6 yards per contest ranked second only to K-State's Daniel Thomas. Robinson has amassed 145 yards and two touchdowns through the first two games of his senior season. He has also established himself as a receiving threat, as he leads the team with 10 catches and 91 yards.

**Tight end:** After an injury-plagued 2009 season, senior tight end Collin Franklin has returned to the Iowa State sideline this year. Despite being hurt for part of the year, Franklin caught 18 passes for 192 yards during his junior season. He currently ranks third on the team with eight catches for 98 yards in 2010, and will look to post bigger numbers as the season progresses. His career stats — 41 catches, 548 yards, two touchdowns — make

him one of the Cyclones' most established receiving threats. With Iowa State's receiving corps still trying to establish its identity as the season unfolds, expect Franklin to get at least a few looks against the Wildcats.

Offensive line: Similar to K-State, the Cyclones' starting offensive line isn't short on experience, as the front five includes two seniors and two juniors. The unit is anchored by senior center Ben Lamaak, who has started 34 career games as a Cyclone. Senior left guard Alex Alvarez will make his 20th consecutive start this weekend, while junior left tackle Kelechi Osemele will make his 18th. Junior right guard Hayworth Hicks elected to redshirt last season, but played in every game during the 2008 season. The Cyclones' least experienced lineman, sophomore right tackle Brayden Burris, saw significant playing time last season and is set to record his fourth career start.

Defensive line: Iowa State's defensive front four received a huge boost when senior end Rashawn Parker returned to the starting lineup prior to the season. Parker, who has 94 tackles — 14 behind the line of scrimmage and eight sacks during his career, missed the final nine games of 2009 due to a knee injury. Fellow senior Bailey Johnson, a defensive tackle, will make his 11th consecutive start this weekend. The battle between K-State's offensive line and Iowa State's defensive line could be pivotal, as the focal point of the Wildcats' offense is senior running back Daniel Thomas.

**Cornerback:** The Cyclones will field a pair of talented junior cornerbacks in Leonard Johnson and Ter'Ran Benton. Johnson, a former freshman All-American, has racked up 120 tackles

during his collegiate career. He'll make his 20th start this weekend. Benton returns to the field after missing last week's game to attend a family funeral. Though he suffered a broken leg midway through the 2009 season, Benton recorded 41 tackles, including 3.5 for negative yardage, and two

Safety: A pair of seniors, including the 2009 Big 12 Defensive Newcomer of the Year, comprise arguably the Cyclones' strongest defensive unit in 2010. Strong safety David Sims, the aforementioned award winner, returned to the starting lineup last weekend after serving a one-game suspension during the team's season opener. His nine tackles against Iowa pushed his career total to 97. He's also intercepted five passes and forced three fumbles during his career. His counterpart, free safety Michael O'Connell, has 74

sacks as a sophomore.

### WEAKNESSES

Wide receiver: Iowa State possesses plenty of options at wide receiver, but the Cyclones are waiting for one of those options to establish himself as a playmaker in 2010. Junior Darius Darks currently leads the receiving corps with 10 catches for 88 yards and a touchdown this season. In his career, Darks has hauled in 87 passes, including four in the end zone

Linebacker: Experience is an issue surrounding the Cyclones' starting linebacking corps, which is comprised of three sophomores. All three saw significant time in 2009, but none entered this season with any previous starts. Middle linebacker A.J. Klein currently leads the team with 26 tackles, while outside linebacker Jake Knott ranks second with 15 stops.

-Compiled by Justin Nutter



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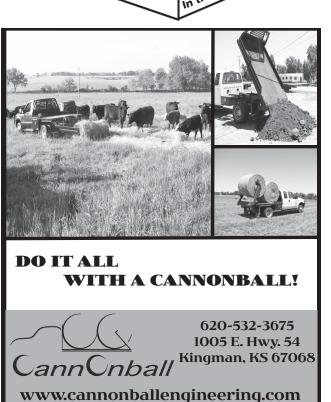
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# Matching Up



VS.











If senior quarterback Carson Coffman's performance against Missouri State was truly a sign of things to come, that could mean great news for the Wildcats as the season progresses. Coffman set career highs with 280 passing yards and three touchdowns against the Bears, and will look to keep the momentum in his favor this week-

Don't expect to see K-State go to the air often, as Iowa State possesses a solid secondary, but whatever Coffman can do to take the pressure off senior running back Daniel Thomas can only help in the long run.

Speaking of Thomas, the former junior college transfer currently ranks third in the country with 371 rushing yards and

four touchdowns through just two games. He and fellow running back William Powell (10 carries, 121 yards, two touch-downs) could be in for a huge day against a Cyclone run defense that ranks 104th nationally.

Iowa State has some offensive playmakers in quarterback Austen Arnaud and running back Alexander Robinson, but both have had trouble finding their groove in 2010. Arnaud, one of the top passers in school history, has been intercepted five times in two games. Robinson, who finished third in the Big 12 with 1,195 rushing yards a year ago, is averaging just 72.5 yards per game to start his senior campaign. But both have had success against K-State in

Statistically, neither defensive unit appears to have a clear advantage, but overall starting experience gives a slight edge to the Cyclones.

The numbers may not show it, but Iowa State fields a defensive line full of players who have seen significant playing time during their collegiate careers. The linebackers, however, are a different story, as all three starters are sophomores who didn't start prior to this season. The front seven will have its hands full against Thomas and K-State's big, experienced offensive line.

Anchored by senior safety David Sims, the 2009 Big 12 Defensive Newcomer of the Year, the Cyclones field one of the strongest secondaries in the entire conference. Coffman will need to be efficient when called upon to throw, as mistakes could prove costly against Sims and company.

The Wildcats' defense made clutch play after clutch play against UCLA in the season opener, but seemingly took a step in the wrong direction last weekend against Missouri State. After jumping out to a 20-point halftime lead, K-State seemed to stop caring, and it shows on the stat sheet.

The Bears ended the game with 447 total yards and scored 17 points after halftime. Six of those points capped off an 18play drive that started inside the Missouri State one-yard line. If the Wildcats want to win this weekend, they'll need a solid defensive game for a full 60 min-



# **SPECIAL TEAMS**

After a surprise performance by sophomore placekicker Anthony Cantele in the season opener, things went south for K-State's kicking game in week two.

Cantele appeared to have the starting job solidified, but he didn't do much to help his cause against Missouri State. The Wichita native missed a 26-yard field goal attempt and bounced an extra point attempt off the right upright after scoring on a fake field goal. At Tuesday's press conference, head coach Bill Snyder said the starting kicking duties are up for grabs and a starter likely won't be announced until

Iowa State's starting kicker, junior Grant Mahoney, has connected on two of his first three attempts this season, but his career stats — 32 of 48 — are nothing to get excited about. Both team's kickers will look to minimize mistakes this weekend, as this game could likely come down to

the final possession. plenty of use out of their punters through two games, as they have combined for 20 punts. The Wildcats' Ryan Doerr has a slight advantage in average (41.5 yards) over the Cyclones' Kirby Van Der Kamp (40.4 yards), so the special teams advantage goes to K-State.

### K-STATE 24 **IOWA STATE 20**

For all intents and purposes, this should be a mid-to-low scoring contest, as both teams field offenses that are fairly one-dimensional.

Expect both teams to go Both teams have gotten to their running backs early and often. If that's the case, look for Thomas to have another standout performance against an Iowa State defense that has struggled to stop the run. However, if the Cyclones are able to figure out K-State's rushing attack, the final out-

come will likely hinder on Coffman's performance.

While Arnaud may be off to a sluggish start in 2010, he's had no problem picking apart K-State's defense in the past. The Wildcats will need to keep Arnaud on his toes and prevent him from get-ting untracked. The same goes for Robinson, who has proven on more than one occasion that he has the ability to make big plays.

If Thomas continues to play his game and the Wildcats are able to contain Iowa State's backfield, look for K-State to walk away with a win.

-Compiled by Justin Nutter

# K-State should continue rushing attack against Cyclones



If there is any game this season where Carson Coffman could have shown his real potential on this team, last week was it.

In the Wildcats 48-24 win against Missouri State, Coffman threw for 280 yards and three touchdowns, while Daniel Thomas ran for 137 yards and two touchdowns. After rushing for 72 yards against UCLA, William Powell contributed to the offense again gaining 49 yards on only four touches and a score. Thomas now has 371 yards on the ground putting him in third place in the nation for rushing yards. Daniel Thomas is great, but Powell has shown that he can be a great backup to spell Thomas on key situations.

Part of Coffman's poise in the pocket and successful passing day was due to the help of the offensive line. He had plenty of time to make a decision, as he normally does, and scrambled for yards when he usually takes the sack. Receivers Aubrey Quarles and Brodrick Smith had the majority of the targets. Smith had six receptions for 99 yards and two touchdowns, while Quarles had seven receptions for 82 yards and a score.

After a successful first half, the defense let up and allowed the Bears to score 17 second half points. Missouri State also gained a total of 447 yards, which was unacceptable.

Coffman did have a successful game, but I wouldn't count on him to rack up similar numbers right away. The good and bad things that happened last week were against an FCS team, which is the biggest reason K-State isn't getting a lot of national recognition after starting 2-0. The victory over Missouri State didn't look as good as it could have been, and now the team has to go into conference play with a few issues — especially on defense.

The team will open up Big 12 play against Iowa State at Arrowhead Stadium, which was the same scenario as last season. K-State won a nailbiter 24-23 after safety Emmanuel Lamur blocked an extra point attempt following a touchdown pass from quarterback Austen Arnaud to Jake Williams.

This season, Arnaud has had trouble finding receivers. He has thrown for 462 yards, but only has one touchdown and five interceptions. Three of those interceptions came against Iowa in a 35-7 loss last week.

The game in Kansas City, Mo., will be yet another home game for the Wildcats. Iowa State has allowed an average of 215 yards on the ground so this should open up plenty of holes for Thomas and Powell. Look for Snyder and company to exploit this weakness and stick to the run more than the

pass. Even though last season's victory was a close one, I expect this year to be a lot different. With an experienced rushing attack and plenty of receivers available to Coffman, K-State should handle this game fairly well, and the Wildcats should pull out a comfortable victory.

Tyler Scott is a senior in print jóurnalism. Please send comments to sports@spub.

# RB Thomas reflects on time in Manhattan

**Ashley Dunkak** 

A quarterback in high school and junior college, Daniel Thomas is now racking up rushing yards for K-State as one of the best running backs in the country. The senior sat down in his own press conference segment on Tuesday to talk about his play at running back, his journey to K-State and his thoughts on the Heisman Trophy.

Q: What's your assessment of your season so

A: I think I did a pretty good job so far. Rushing-wise I've been racking up a few yards and everything; the offensive line's been doing a good job. I think there's a lot of room for improvement, though. This upcoming week I think we'll put it

Q: How much easier is the running back position for you this season?

A: It's easier. Last year it was my first year playing running back, and I've been able to go out and just watch film and just dig out my game and look at my strengths and weaknesses and ev-erything. I feel a lot more comfortable out

**THOMAS** Q: What has been the hardest part about adjusting to the

running back position? A: I'd say the blocking schemes — knowing which

linebacker to block, and pick-

ing up the blitzes, I'd say that's the most difficult part.

Q: What do you think this team is capable of if you keep running the way you've been running?

> A: First of all, the offensive line, they're the ones who are opening it up for me, so as long as they continue to block the way they've been doing, I think the sky's the limit for this team and we can go out and be successful every week.

Q: What do you and William Powell bring as a one-two punch?

A: Will's been doing a great job. He's a fast back; he goes in

there and breaks a lot of runs. I think the big thing is me pounding it in there, and then putting Will in there, he's a change of pace back, and he just gets in there and breaks off long runs.

Q: How difficult was your road to K-State with the academic struggles?

A: It was very frustrating. It was just sitting in my room, wondering if I would ever get here and just talking with my dad every day. We prayed a lot about it. There were times when I felt like giving up, but my parents were there for me, and they just helped me get through it. To be where I am now, it's just a blessing. I've been through a lot and having the success I've had now and the little success that I had anyway — feels good.

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### **BY THE NUMBERS**

Numbers to consider when K-State takes on lowa State tomorrow

85

-Wildcats' winning percentage since 1990 when KSU scores first

This is not necessarily a shocking statistic, but it is a relevant one. Two components of consistency are starting well and finishing well. The more quickly the Wildcats get rolling, the less likely they are to be stopped. Against UCLA and Missouri State, this was the case; early points gave K-State momentum and helped hold off late surges by its opponents. In Big 12 play, striking first will be even more crucial. Most people appreciate the drama of a comeback, but most also realize the wisdom in getting it put away early.

-Rank of ISU among most-improved

Under the direction of head coach Paul Rhoads, the Cyclones won five more games in 2009 than they did in 2008, tying with Washington for the biggest margin of betterment. 2-10 to 7-6? Those are Snyder-ish turnaround numbers. Iowa State played in the Insight Bowl — its first postseason frolick since 2005 — and defeated Minnesota 14-13.

### 0-7

-Record of ISU under Rhoads when opponent scores more than 24 points

That's no guarantee that K-State will win as long as it puts up more than 24, but it gives the Wildcats a good chance. With an impressive offensive arsenal, K-State could very well score more than 24. Between the dynamic duo in the backfield and the plethora of potential receivers, quarterback Carson Coffman can have confidence in just about anyone in purple to get yardage.

9

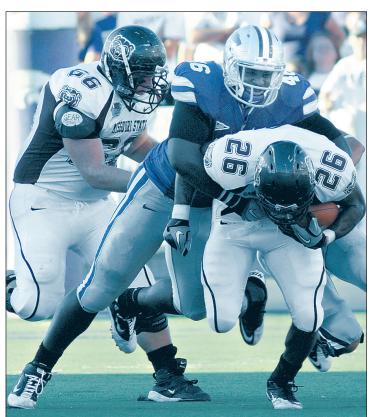
-Unassisted tackles against Missouri State by Brandon Harold

The sophomore defensive end has officially returned, and anyone in the opposing backfield should beware of No. 91. This is a big man, and you don't want him coming after you. He's one of several impressively intimidating members of the defensive line, and I think it's great to have a presence like that staring across the line of scrimmage.

-Compiled by Ashley Dunkak

# BIG 12 BATTLE

# Wildcats ready for league opener in Kansas City



Nathaniel LaRue | Collegian

K-State defensive lineman **Prizell Brown** drags down a Missouri State ball carrier last week. Brown and the Wildcats open Big 12 play against lowa State Saturday.

Ashley Dunkak sports editor

This weekend, part three of K-State's five-game homestand will take place at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, where the Wildcats are the designated home team this time around. They will face the Iowa State Cyclones, whom they defeated by one point in dramatic fashion last year.

In 2009, then-first year Cyclones head coach Paul Rhoads orchestrated a turnaround in what had been a steadily declining football program. The season before he arrived, Iowa State went 2-10, and it lost those 10 games consecutively. In 2009, the Cyclones went 7-6, winning a bowl

game and making Rhoads the first coach with a winning record since George Veenker in 1931. The newly discovered vim and vigor led to one of the most exciting football games of the K-State 2009 season. The contest came right down to the wire, and thanks to a blocked extra point attempt by junior defensive back Emmanuel Lamur, the Wildcats emerged victorious, 24-23.

K-State's defense, which acquired 447 yards of offense to Missouri State last week, will have a challenge in the Cyclones double-threat quarterback and stout offensive line. A senior now, quarterback and Ames native Austen Arnaud has put up some significant numbers both on the ground and in the air. Simply

put, he has rushed for over 1,200 yards and thrown for over 6,500 yards.

K-State head coach Bill Snyder described Iowa State's front five — who average about 313 pounds — as a "lunch pail offensive line." He said they are big, physical, talented guys who get on blocks, stay on blocks, and work really hard.

who get on blocks, stay on blocks, and work really hard.

Of course, those players will be running up against K-State's defensive line, which progressed last week as pressure came from sophomore defensive end Brandon Harold and junior nosetackle Raphael Guidry, who each had nine tackles. Harold comes back from injury and has been a force to behold even in just the past two games.

the past two games.

While Arnaud has some promising targets, K-State junior defensive back David Garrett said last week's performance did not represent the Wildcats' defense.

"It was a disappointment," Garrett said. "That was not us. They had a 99-yard drive against us. That is never good. Then they had 11 minutes of possession time, which is a whole quarter for their team basically. For us to win the game, we have to keep them out of the end zone and keep our offense on the field. So that was a letdown for our defense and as a team."

So far, the Wildcats have had a game with massive yardage on the ground and another with even more yardage through the air. With the backfield duo of senior running backs Daniel Thomas and William Powell, as well as a bevy of physical wide receivers like senior Aubrey Quarles, sophomore Brodrick Smith and freshman Tramaine Thompson, K-State has options. However, Snyder had good words about Iowa State's defense.

Snyder had good words about Iowa State's defense.

"Defensively I think they're a tremendously talented pursuit team," Snyder said. "They run to the football; they'll hit you. If you watch them on tape, you're always going to find nine, 10 guys around the ball no matter where it is. They don't lack for effort whatsoever."

Over the past few seasons, the Wildcats have struggled to find balance and consistency. They defeated

Over the past few seasons, the Wildcats have struggled to find balance and consistency. They defeated UCLA, a solid team and perennial bowl-contender, and played well. They also defeated Missouri State, an FCS opponent, and had what senior offensive lineman Wade Weibert described as a sloppy performance. After that lapse of focus, K-State is looking to buckle down again as it enters conference play.

The league opener has definite significance for the team, players said, including senior offensive lineman Zach Kendall.

"It is very important," said Kendall. "It is what we have been working for. Conference play is big time for us. It is where it all starts and begins. We really need to have a good week because last week was not good enough"

### K-STATE VS. IOWA STATE

When: Tomorrow, 11 a.m.
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Radio: K-State Sports Network
Series: Iowa State leads 49-40-4



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